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File: USPT

Jun 30, 1998

US-PAT-NO: 5774874

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5774874 A

TITLE: Multi-merchant gift registry

DATE-ISSUED: June 30, 1998

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
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Thomas; Barbara	Chanhassen	MN		
Remington; Debra	Hopkins	MN		

ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE CODE
The Gift Certificate Center	Minneapolis	MN			02

APPL-NO: 08/ 562014 [\[PALM\]](#)

DATE FILED: November 22, 1995

PARENT-CASE:

RELATED APPLICATIONS This is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 08/132,604, filed Oct. 6, 1993, entitled GIFT REGISTRY APPARATUS AND METHOD, abandoned, which itself was a continuation-in-part of application Ser. No. 08/062,470, filed May 14, 1993, abandoned. The present application is also related to Applicants' copending application entitled A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING REGISTRY CARDS, filed on even date herewith and assigned to the assignee of the present invention, the disclosure of which is herein incorporated by reference.

INT-CL: [06] [G06](#) [F](#) [17/60](#)

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/27; 705/14

US-CL-CURRENT: [705/27](#); [705/14](#)

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 395/227, 395/226, 395/228, 395/229, 395/218, 395/214, 395/201, 705/27, 705/26, 705/28, 705/29, 705/18, 705/14, 705/1

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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US-CL

<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>3445633</u>	May 1969	Ratner	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>3622995</u>	November 1971	Dilks et al.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>3804007</u>	April 1974	Arciprete et al.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4166945</u>	September 1979	Inoyama	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4554446</u>	November 1985	Murphy et al.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4720785</u>	January 1988	Shapiro	
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4815741</u>	March 1989	Small	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4916441</u>	April 1990	Gombrich	
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5208445</u>	May 1993	Nahar et al.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5243174</u>	September 1993	Veeneman	
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ART-UNIT: 241

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: McElheny, Jr.; Donald E.

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Patterson & Keough, P.A.

ABSTRACT:

The present invention provides a system for registering items selected by a registrant from a plurality of participating merchants for subsequent communication to a prospective purchaser. The system has a computer system that contains identifying information about the registrant. A portable input and storage device is provided that can be carried by the registrant into a plurality of participating stores. The portable input and storage device is capable of receiving and storing information regarding gifts that the registrant desires to receive as presents. The input and storage device stores a unique identifier for the particular merchant each desired gift is from. A transfer device is provided connected to the computer system that receives the information regarding the registrant's desired gifts from the portable input and storage device and transfers the information to the computer system. Finally, a prospective purchaser interface device is provided that allows the prospective purchaser to view, sort or print a list of the gifts desired by the registrant and which particular merchant those gifts are from.

14 Claims, 20 Drawing figures

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